APPOINTMENT IN THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

3295. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that two officers working on the non-Government's side of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research been appointed or given the charge without formal appointment as Commissioners in the Agriculture Department, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether any approval has been received from the Union Cabinet, if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by Government against the persons;

(d) if so, the findings of inquiry in this regard and what action has been proposed by the enquiry officer ;

(e) whether Government have proposed to replace the guilty officer till final decision in the matter and to avoid tampering with records, influencing the cause of enquiry/investigation ; and

(f) if not, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Two officers of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) are holding current charge of the duties of Agriculture Commissioner and Animal Husbandry Commissioner till the posts are filled up on regular basis.

(b) Approval of Agricultural Minister had been obtained. Steps have been initiated to obtain the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

(c) A Preliminary inquiry was conducted against one of the officers.

(d) Some administrative and Financial irregularities committed by the officer were detected. Suspension of the officer and the change of his headquarters were recommended. Departmental proceedings have also been initiated.

(e) The officer was placed under suspension and the headquarters of the officer were changed and he was posted to the I.C.A.R. Headquarters at New Delhi.

(f) Question does not arise.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF VEGETABLES

3296. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of abnormal increase in the prices of vegetables particularly tomato, potato, onion etc. during the last 4 months;

(b) if so, what are the details of the increase and the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to arrest the increase in prices in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The wholesale prices of vegetables varied from place to place. The percentage increase at major centres was as follows :

Percentage increase in the wholesale prices during September, to December, 1993

Commodity	Markets				
	Delhi	Bombay	Bangalore	Calcutta	Madras
Tomato	(+)50.5	(+)260.0	(+)109.7	(+)62.8	(+)36.2
Potato . . .	(−)46.0	(+)13.6	(+)87.0	(+)4.8	(+)62.5
Onion	(+)62.9	(+)63.8	(+)107.3	(+)88.8	(+)75.2

The increase in prices of vebetables can be attributed to imbalance between demand for and the supply of commodities, the imperfections in the marketing system of perishable commodities created by fluctuations in production, trade practices, transport bottlenecks, etc. The general inflationary trend in the country also affected the market sentiments.

(c) In order to control the excessive fluctuation in the prices of vegetables, the Government has undertaken both short-term and long-term measures. The short-term measures include the sale of vegetables at fixed prices through Government agencies. As a long-term measure the Government has launched a central sector scheme to increase the production of vegetables in the country.

PROJECTS UNDER THE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

3297. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the projects under the Agricultural Development Programmes proposed to be taken up for implementation in Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the next three years; and

(b) how much amount is proposed to be spent on each of those projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. Agricultural Development Project (ADP) proposals are not received from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. At present, Haryana is in preliminary stage of project formulation.

(b) Question does not arise.

PRODUCTION OF FOODGRAINS

3298. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICLUTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the requirement of foodgrains in the country during the year 1993-94; and

(b) what is the target fixed for production during the current year and what is the share of Punjab, Haryana and U.P. in that regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) The requirement of foodgrains at a given point of time depends on various factors like levels of production, population, income, availability of substitutes etc. The per capita availability of foodgrains for the year 1993 has been provisionally estimated at 465.6 gms. per day.

(b) The foodgrains production target has been fixed at 188 million tonnes during the current year. The share of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the total targetted production of the country is 10.45 per cent, 5.29 per cent and 20.03 per cent respectively.

ARTIFICIAL RAINS

3299. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of the steps taken for making artificial rains during the last three years together with the results achieved;

(b) what are the future plan in that regard and the details of the area of land proposed to be covered in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up a separate cell under the Agriculture